

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel pending claims 1 through 23, and add a new set of claims 24-44. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-23 (Cancelled)

24. (New) A fumigation apparatus including:

an ISO general purpose shipping container which at least in part defines a fumigation chamber being adapted to contain produce to be fumigated; and

mobile fumigation means operatively coupled to the shipping container, the mobile fumigation means including:

fumigant inlet means operatively coupled to the shipping container to allow a flow of a fumigant into the fumigation chamber;

extraction means operatively coupled to the container and arranged to remove a majority of the fumigant from the fumigation chamber;

absorption means operatively coupled to the extraction means, the absorption means being designed to absorb the fumigant extracted from the fumigation chamber; and

means for washing at least part of the absorption means to remove and degrade the absorbed fumigant.

25. (New) A fumigation apparatus as defined in claim 24 wherein the mobile fumigation means is defined by a shipping container.

26. (New) A fumigation apparatus as defined in claim 24 wherein the fumigation chamber is a pair of shipping containers positioned alongside one another each operatively coupled to the mobile fumigation means.

27. (New) A fumigation apparatus as defined in claim 24 wherein the mobile fumigation means is defined by a partition wall in the shipping container, the wall separating the mobile fumigation means and the fumigation chamber.

28. (New) A fumigation apparatus as defined in claim 24 wherein the absorption means comprises an absorption bed including activated carbon for absorbing at least part of the fumigant extracted from the fumigation chamber.

29. (New) A fumigation apparatus as defined in claim 24 also including a sliding bed or floor on which the produce resides, the bed or floor being configured to slide into and out of the fumigation chamber wherein loading and unloading of the produce to be fumigated can be performed externally of the chamber.

30. (New) A fumigation apparatus as defined in claim 24 wherein the mobile fumigation means incorporates a source of the fumigant which is directly associated with a heating source, the latter used to convert the fumigant into a gaseous form.

31. (New) A fumigation apparatus as defined in claim 24 wherein the fumigant inlet means is adapted to detachably couple to a mobile source of the fumigant.

32. (New) A fumigation apparatus as defined in claim 24 wherein the mobile fumigation means incorporates a system control box and a system of fumigant delivery pipes and valves adapted in use to supply fumigant from a supply source to the fumigation chamber.

33. (New) A fumigation apparatus as defined in claim 32 wherein the fumigant inlet means includes a dispersion pipe system located in the fumigation chamber.

34. (New) A fumigation apparatus as defined in claim 24 wherein the fumigation chamber contains a plurality of floor and wall-mounted pipes independently connected via a system of taps and connectors to a fumigant sampling and detection meter unit located in a control room.

35. (New) A fumigation apparatus as defined in claim 32 wherein the system control box contains a fumigant sampling and detection meter unit and power supply switches for mixing fans, exhaust fan, lights, gas heaters and valve actuators.

36. (New) A fumigation apparatus as defined in claim 24 wherein the means for washing comprises a chemical solution for washing at least part of the absorption bed.

37. (New) A fumigation apparatus as defined in claim 36 wherein the solution comprises sodium thiosulphate for degrading methyl bromide.

38. (New) A method of fumigating produce, the method comprising the steps of:
providing a fumigation apparatus including an ISO general purpose shipping container which at least in part defines a fumigation chamber and a mobile fumigation means operatively coupled to the shipping container;

locating the produce to be fumigated in the fumigation chamber;
providing a flow of a fumigant to the fumigation chamber;
extracting at least some of the fumigant from the chamber;
absorbing the fumigant extracted from the fumigation chamber; and
washing at least part of the absorption means to remove and degrade the absorbed fumigant.

39. (New) A method of fumigating produce as defined in claim 38 wherein the fumigant extracted from the chamber is absorbed on an absorption bed.

40. (New) A fumigation apparatus as defined in claim 25 wherein the fumigation chamber is a pair of shipping containers positioned alongside one another each operatively coupled to the mobile fumigation means.

41. (New) A fumigation apparatus as defined in claim 40 wherein the fumigant inlet means is adapted to detachably couple to a mobile source of the fumigant.

42. (New) A fumigation apparatus as defined in claim 41 wherein the mobile fumigation means incorporates a system control box and a system of fumigant delivery pipes and valves adapted in use to supply fumigant from a supply source to the fumigation chamber.

43. (New) A fumigation apparatus as defined in claim 42 wherein the fumigant inlet means includes a dispersion pipe system located in the fumigation chamber.

44. (New) A fumigation apparatus as defined in claim 43 wherein the fumigation chamber contains a plurality of floor and wall-mounted pipes independently connected via a system of taps and connectors to a fumigant sampling and detection meter unit located in a control room.